

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00976 311130Z

21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-10 OES-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 /045 W

----- 110085

R 311035Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8648

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 0976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, ENRG, PK

SUBJ: RAIN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI AND PESHAWAR
FROM LAHORE DATED JAN 30, 1975 RPTG FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

LAHORE 0103

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, ENRG, PK

SUBJECT: RAIN

REF: A) LAHORE 1621 (NOTAL); B) LAHORE 1604 (NOTAL);

C) AGATT SAVACALL IL006 JANUARY 30 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: STEADY RAINS FELL IN MOST OF PAKISTAN JAN 30,
PROVIDING BENEFICIAL EFFECTS TO AGRICULTURE AND, PERHAPS,
TO ELECTRICITY GENERATION. RAIN EXPECTED TO FALL FOR
ANOTHER 24 HOURS THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. STEADY LIGHT RAIN BEGAN TO FALL IN NORTHERN PUNJAB ABOUT
MIDNIGHT JAN 29. ACCORDING TO AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE IN
LAHORE WHO COVERS WEATHER NATION-WIDE, RAIN AS OF 0900 HOURS
JAN 30 EXTENDED OVER ALL OF PAKISTAN EXCEPT KARACHI AND
HYDERABAD DISTRICTS IN SIND. SOURCE SAID RAIN BEGAN TO
FALL IN NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN JAN 27, BECOMING STEADY
JAN 29 IN NORTHERN AREAS (ABOUT .25 TO .5 INCHES THAT DAY).

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HE EXPECTED TOTAL RAINFALL TO AVERAGE .25 INCHES FOR PAKISTAN,

ALTHOUGH IN HILLS IN NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONS, AVERAGE SHOULD REACH ABOUT HALF INCH.

2. OUTLOOK FOR NEXT 24 HOURS IS FOR CONTINUING RAIN, ESPECIALLY IN PUNJAB AND KHAIRPUR AREAS OF SIND. OUTLYING STATIONS ARE REPORTING GOOD RAINFALL, PARTICULARLY IN CATCHMENT AREA FOR MANGLA DAM (PROBABLY BETWEEN .5 TO 1 INCH FOR EACH OF DAYS JAN 30-31). IT EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MANGLA RESERVIOR WITH ABOUT 15,000 CUSECS OF WATER OVER RECENT DAILY DISCHARGE. (SOURCE DID NOT COMMENT ON SNOWFALL IN NORTHERN AREAS, SINCE THAT NOT PERTINENT TO CURRENT WATER SUPPLY.)

3. OFFICIAL EXPERTS IN THREE SEPARATE OFFICES IN LAHORE CONSIDER RAIN IN NORTHERN PUNJAB NORMAL THROUGHOUT WINTER. IT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY GOOD IN RAWALPINDI AND LAHORE DIVISIONS, AND ALMOST AS GOOD IN SARGODHA DIVISION. HOWEVER, SOUTHERN PUNJAB, INCLUDING ALL OF MULTAN AND BAHAWALPUR DIVISIONS, HAD LITTLE RAIN BEFORE JAN 29.

4. SPECIFICALLY, LIGHT RAIN FELL IN SARGODHA, LAHORE AND PART OF MULTAN DIVISIONS IN MID-DECEMBER. SAME AREAS, MINUS MULTAN DIVISION, BUT INCLUDING BAHAWALNAGAR DISTRICT OF BAHAWALPUR DIVISION, RECEIVED LIGHT RAIN FROM JAN 6-12. RAIN THEN MOVED TO MULTAN DIVISION AND OTHER DISTRICTS OF BAHAWALPUR DIVISION JAN 13-19. WIDESPREAD BUT SCATTERED LIGHT RAIN FELL IN PARTS OF LAHORE DIVISION BETWEEN JAN 20-26. EXPERTS ATTRIBUTE CURRENT RAINFALL TO "WESTERN DISTURBANCE" OVER ATLANTIC OCEAN WHICH BROUGHT RAIN TO BELT STRETCHING FROM SAUDI ARABIA THROUGH IRAN.

5. MOST EXPERTS IN LAHORE BELIEVE RAINS WILL BE BOON FOR FARMERS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE IN LOWER PUNJAB AND UPPER SIND WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED ENOUGH RAIN TO SERVE THE RABI WHEAT CROP. THEY BELIEVE RAIN IN MANGLA CATCHMENT AREA WILL NOT ONLY PROVIDE BOOST TO IRRIGATION SYSTEM, BUT ALSO SLIGHT BREATHER TO WAPDA IN ITS EFFORTS TO GENERATE HYDRO-ELECTRICITY.

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6. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS SECSTATE. SPENGLER. UNQTE. LUPPI

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